

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ( ISO ) R

DRAFTED BY S:LSEAGLEBURGER:ML

APPROVED BY S - MR. EAGLEBURGER

S/S - MR. SHANKLE

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 212388

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN FROM EAGLEBURGER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO

SUBJECT: SHIP VISITS, SEALING WAX, CABBAGES, ETC.

1. MY APOLOGIES FOR NOT REPLYING SOONER.
2. WITH REGARD TO CABINET OFFICERS, THE SECRETARY WANTS TO KEEP ALL HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS OUT OF YUGOSLAVIA FOR A WHILE. IF THEY WANT TO PLAY HARD BALL, THEN WE CAN DO SO TOO. IN ANY EVENT, A CABLE ON DENT SHOULD BE ON ITS WAY TO YOU NOW.
3. AS TO SHIP VISITS, I AGREE IT WAS A "DUMB-ASSED" CABLE, BUT THE POINT WAS (AND IS), AS ON THE CABINET-LEVEL VISITORS ISSUE, THAT WE ARE TRYING TO COOL THE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FRIENDS A BIT, AND BELIEVE THIS TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF YOU. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE SOME PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MADE THE CASE UNUSUAL:

A) PROJECTED VISIT OF NIMITZ GROUP HAD HIGHLY DISTINCTIVE

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CHARACTER. NIMITZ AS WELL AS SUBMARINE WOULD BE FIRST

NUCLEAR-POWERED NAVAL VESSELS EVER TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA.

B) BOTH YUGOSLAV AND AMERICAN PRESS HAVE BEEN DESCRIBING OUR RELATIONS IN CONFRONTATIONAL TERMS. PROCEEDING FROM TITO'S PUBLIC REMARKS YUGOSLAV PRESS CONVEYS IMAGE OF US

AND YUGOSLAVIA AT ODDS WITH US SEEKING TO PURSUE ITS OBJECTIVES BY APPLICATION OF PRESSURE WHICH YUGOSLAVIA OBLIGED TO RESIST. IN THIS ATMOSPHERE OUR REQUEST FOR NIMITZ GROUP VISIT WOULD, IN OUR JUDGMENT, BE LIKELY TO PROVOKE SHARP DIFFERENCES WITHIN GOVERNMENT, PARTY AND MILITARY CIRCLES OVER RESPONSE TO REQUEST. WHILE ONE CANNOT OBVIOUSLY BE FULLY CERTAIN OF YUGOSLAV DECISION, IT WAS OUR VIEW THAT THERE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL CHANCE THAT IT WOULD BE NEGATIVE, AND SAW NO REASON TO ASK FOR THAT SLAP IN THE KISSER.

C) WE ALSO FELT THAT IF THE GOY DID AGREE TO THE VISIT IT WOULD MAKE IT HARDER FOR JUGS LATER TO TURN DOWN SOVIET DEMANDS FOR GREATER ACCESS TO PORT REPAIR FACILITIES.

4. AS TO QUESTION OF WHAT KIND OF SHIP VISIT TO HAVE THIS FALL, WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND? I SUPPOSE THAT THE PATTERN OF THE PAST FEW YEARS SHOULD NOT BE INTERRUPTED, BUT WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT.

5. WARM REGARDS. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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